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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4048
INFO AMCONSUL Leningrad
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 12065: GDS 6/19/87 (MCCALL, SHERROD B) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, UR, US, CH
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA BETRAYS CONCERN OVER RESULTS
- OF SECRETARY HAIG'S CHINA VISIT

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 8475, (B) MOSCOW 8034

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: THE SOVIET MEDIA IS BEGINNING TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF SECRETARY HAIG'S CHINA VISIT; THE TONE IS SOMBER AND BETRAYS OBVIOUS CONCERN OVER THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE STRENGTHENING OF SINO-U.S. TIES. PRAVDA ON JUNE 19 SEES THE SECRETARY'S VISIT AS HAVING WIDENED THE MILITARY-STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF THE SINO-U.S. RELATIONSHIP AND WARNS THAT THE SOVIET UNION "CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT" TO THE SUPPLY OF U.S. WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA. THE REVIEW OF THE TRIP BY THE PAPER'S POLITICAL OBSERVER OVCHINNIKOV CALLS THIS SINO-U.S. "COLLUSION" A "DANGEROUS DESTABILIZING FACTOR" AND MAKES CLEAR TO THE SOVIET READER THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF ITS RESULTS FOR THE SOVIET UNION. ALSO UNDERSCORING THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR THE SOVIET AUDIENCE OF THE RELATIONSHIP, SOVIET TELEVISION HAS REPORTED THE WASHINGTON STORY THAT THE U.S. AND CHINA HAVE BEEN COOPERATING IN INTELLIGENCE MONITORING OF SOVIET ROCKET TESTS. TASS IN A SEPARATE ITEM TALKS OF A "U.S.-CHINESE ALLIANCE" AND NOTES THAT CHINA'S ACQUISITION OF U.S.-MADE WEAPONS MAY CHANGE THE "CORRELATION OF MILITARY FORCES" IN THE REGION. END SUMMARY.

3. THE OVCHINNIKOV ARTICLE IN PRAVDA SAYS THE HAIG VISIT WAS DESIGNED TO "COORDINATE THE ANTI-SOVIET POLICY" OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. WASHINGTON IS DESCRIBED AS WANTING TO USE THE "RABID ANTI-SOVIETISM" OF THE PRESENT CHINESE LEADERSHIP AGAINST THE USSR (THE TRIP IS SAID TO HAVE SUPPORTED DENG) WHILE BEIJING IS SUPPOSEDLY BACKING THE U.S. EFFORT

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TO "DISRUPT THE BALANCE OF FORCES" AND GAIN MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER THE SOVIET UNION. THE U.S. RESOLVED THE DIFFICULT TAIWAN ISSUE BY OFFERING A WIDER ASSORTMENT OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA; THE CHINESE IN TURN ACQUIESCED IN THIS DESPITE THEIR EARLIER TOUGH WORDS TO "SAVE FACE". THE RESULT, IN OVCHINNIKOV'S VIEW, WAS "ONE MORE STEP IN WIDENING THE MILITARY-STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF SINO-U.S. RAPPROACHMENT."

4. OVCHINNIKOV SAYS THAT THE SOVIET UNION "CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO THE PLANS TO SUPPLY CHINA WITH U.S.-MADE WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY" AND ADDS THAT IT ALSO "CAUSES GREAT CONCERN" TO

CHINA'S OTHER NEIGHBORS. HE TIES RECENT "SHARP INTENSIFICATION" OF U.S. AND CHINA ACTIONS AGAINST VIETNAM, WIDENED MILITARY AID TO THE AFGHAN INSURGENTS, AND THE ATTEMPTS TO "REVERSE THE DEVELOPMENTS" IN KAMPUCHEA WITH THE "COMPLETE COINCIDENCE OF AIMS" BETWEEN CHINA AND THE U.S. ON THESE ISSUES IN THE TALKS. HE TOUCHES ON THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE ON THE USSR BETWEEN BEIJING AND WASHINGTON, A SUBJECT ON WHICH SOVIET TELEVISION VIEWERS HAVE BEEN BRIEFED FROM THE U.S. PRESS STORIES.

5. SEVERAL NEWSPAPER AND TASS ITEMS HAVE PICKED UP ON THE THREAT TO VIETNAM AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION SUPPOSEDLY CAUSED BY U.S. SUPPORT FOR "EXPANSIONIST" CHINESE AIMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. A JUNE 18 TASS ANALYTICAL PIECE IS PARTICULARLY STRIKING FOR ITS EMPHASIS ON A "U.S.-CHINESE ALLIANCE" AND JOINT PLANS FOR EXPANSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE ITEM SAYS WASHINGTON IS RAISING STAKES BY PLAYING

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THE "CHINA CARD" AND TOUCHES ON WHAT IS CLEARLY
THE PRIME SOVIET CONCERN: "THE ACQUISITION OF NEW
U.S.-MADE WEAPONS BY CHINA COULD LEAD TO A CHANGE
IN THE CORRELATION OF MILITARY FORCES IN THE
REGION."

6. COMMENT: THE TONE OF THE SOVIET PRESS ON THE

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SECRETARY'S CHINA VISIT IS UNIFORMLY SOMBER AND
CLEARLY REFLECTS AN UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION THAT
THE U.S. HAS SUCCEEDED IN SOLIDIFYING A MAJOR PART
OF ITS INTERNATIONAL EFFORT AGAINST THE SOVIET
UNION.
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